

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 2 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1 and 3 to 28, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting image data;

coding means for compression-encoding ~~compressing and coding~~ the input image data;

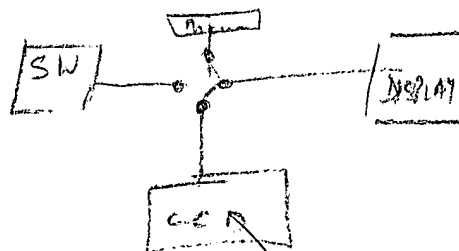
recording means for recording the compression-encoded image data on an external recording medium ~~on a recording medium the compressed and coded compressed and coded image data;~~

decoding means for decoding the compression-encoded ~~compressed and coded~~ image data before said recording means records the compression-encoded ~~compressed and coded~~ image data on the external recording medium; and

display means for selectively displaying the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data decoded by said decoding means, before said recording means records the compression-encoded image data on the external recording medium displaying the decoded image data.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said display means displays the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded ~~decoded~~ image data at the same time.



4. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said decoding means further decodes compression-encoded image data previously recorded on the external recording medium ~~the recorded image data~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said coding means compression-encodes ~~codes~~ the input image data by selectively using one of a plurality of types of compression-encoding ~~compression and coding~~ methods.

6. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said plurality of types of compression-encoding ~~compression and coding~~ methods include at least a JPEG method.

7. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said plurality of types of compression-encoding ~~compression and coding~~ methods include at least an MPEG method.

8. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said coding means has a plurality of image-quality modes having differing rates of codes supplied for one screen.

9. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means comprises image pickup means for generating the input image data from a captured image.

10. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the input image data is still image data.

11. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising instruction means for dictating a photographing timing of said image pickup means, wherein said display means displays the compression-encoded/decoded ~~decoded~~ image data in response to an output of said instruction means.

12. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:  
input means for inputting image data;  
coding means for compression-encoding ~~compressing and coding~~ the input image data;  
decoding means for decoding the compression-encoded ~~compressed and coded~~ image data; and  
display means for displaying difference image data between the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded ~~decoded~~ image data decoded by said decoding means.

13. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said input means comprises image pickup means for generating the input image data from a captured image.

14. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising recording means for recording ~~on a recording medium~~ the compression-encoded ~~compressed and coded~~ image data on a recording medium.

15. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said coding means compression-encodes ~~codes~~ the input image data by selectively using one of a plurality of types of compression-encoding ~~compression and coding~~ methods.

16. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said coding means has a plurality of image-quality modes having differing rates of codes supplied for one screen.

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17. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the input image data is still image data.

18. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising the steps of:  
inputting image data;  
compression-encoding ~~compressing and coding~~ the input image data;  
recording the compression-encoded image data on an external recording medium ~~on a recording medium the compressed and coded image data~~;  
decoding the compression-encoded ~~compressed and coded~~ image data before the compression-encoded image data is recorded in the recording step; and  
selectively displaying the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data decoded in the decoding step, before the compression-encoded image data is recorded in the recording step ~~decoded image data~~.

19. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising the steps of:

inputting image data;

compression-encoding the compressing and coding input image data;

decoding the compression-encoded ~~compressed and coded~~ image data; and

displaying difference image data between the said input image data input in the inputting step and the compression-encoded/decoded said decoded image data decoded in the decoding step.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium embodying processor-executable instructions for image processing steps, comprising:

an input step of for inputting image data;

a coding step of compression-encoding for coding the input image data input in the inputting step;

a recording step of for recording the compression-encoded image data on an external recording medium ~~on a recording medium the compressed and coded image data;~~

a decoding step of for decoding the compression-encoded image data ~~compressed and coded image data~~ before the compression-encoded ~~compressed and coded~~ image data is recorded in the recording step; and

a display step of selectively displaying the input image data input in the inputting step and the compression-encoded/decoded image data decoded in the decoding step, before the compression-encoded image data is recorded in the recording step for displaying on display means the decoded image data.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium embodying processor-executable instructions for image processing steps, comprising:

an input step of ~~for~~ inputting image data;

a coding step of compression-encoding ~~for coding~~ the input image data input in the inputting step;

a decoding step of ~~for~~ decoding the compression-encoded ~~compressed and coded~~ image data; and

a display step of ~~for~~ displaying on display means difference image data between the input image data input in the inputting step and the compression-encoded/decoded ~~decoded~~ image data decoded in the decoding step.

22. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

an image pickup mechanism for generating input image data from a captured image;

a compression/decompression circuit for compression-encoding ~~compressing and coding~~ the input image data and for decoding the compression-encoded ~~compressed and coded~~ image data;

a recording interface for recording on a recording medium the compression-encoded ~~compressed and coded~~ image data;

a display for displaying the compression-encoded/decoded ~~decoded~~ image data decoded by said compression/decompression circuit; and

a control circuit for controlling said compression/decompression circuit to decode the compression-encoded ~~compressed and coded~~ image data before the compression-encoded ~~compressed and coded~~ image data is recorded via said recording interface.

23. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said control circuit controls said display to selectively display the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded ~~decoded~~ image data decoded by said compression/decompression circuit.

24. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said compression/decompression circuit compression-encodes ~~codes~~ the input image data by selectively using one of a plurality of types of compressing-encoding ~~compression~~ and ~~coding~~ methods.

25. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising a switch for dictating a photographing timing of said image pickup mechanism, wherein said control controls said display to display the compression-encoded/decoded ~~decoded~~ image data decoded by said compression/decompression circuit in response to an actuation of said switch.

26. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:  
an image pickup mechanism for generating input image data from a captured image;

a compression/decompression circuit for compression-encoding ~~compressing~~ and ~~coding~~ the input image data and for decoding the compression-encoded ~~compressed~~ and ~~coded~~ image data; and

a display for displaying difference image data between the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded ~~decoded~~ image data decoded by said compression/decompression circuit.

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27. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 26, further comprising a recording interface for recording on a recording medium the compression-encoded ~~compressed and coded~~ image data.

28. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said compression/decompression circuit compression-encodes ~~codes~~ the input image data by selectively using one of a plurality of types of compression-encoding ~~compression~~ and coding methods.